NEW ORLEANS REPUBLICAN.

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VOLUME I. NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1868. NUMBER 261

GRAND RATIFICATION MEETING.

OUTPOURING OF THE MASSES.

MUSIC AND BANNERS.

ENTHUSIASTIC SPEECHES ON THE OCCASION.

Odd Fellows' Institute and its immediate vicinity was last evening the scene of a spectacle seldom witnessed in New Orleans. For the assembling together of the loyal people of Louisiana is a magnificent display. Long before the hour announced for the opening of the meeting the masses began to centre in and around that building, rendered sacred by the blood of the victims of the ever-memorable July thirteenth, 1866.

The members of the various ward clubs approached with music and banners, strong hearts and sinewy limbs, nerved by patriotism to perform their whole duty in the campaign which has now fully commenced, namely the rights of the people from every circumference of the United States will be secured.

The hall was generously decorated, with the flag hung across its centre, and displayed in every part. Portraits of Lincoln and Grant graced the hall. On the walls were a large number of transparencies. Among those borne in procession by the third ward club were: "Warmoth and Dunn," "Our Trust in Carpet Bags." Other transparencies were: "Warmoth and Dunn, the People's candidates," "Peace at all Men Secured Under the Law," "The Day is Ours."

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. John Turner, of St. James chapel, who referred to the evidences on every side of God's benedicent blessings.

Colonel J. Vigers, chairman of the committee on arrangements, at the conclusion of the exercises, nominated as president the Hon. Oscar Dunn, and the following, together with upwards of three hundred other vice-presidents at large from the wards and the parishes:

VICE PRESIDENTS AT LARGE.

Justice Hyman, Judge R. R. Howell,
J. E. H. Durell, Judge W. W. Howe,
R. W. F. Bisbee, Judge Guy Duplantier
J. K. Belden, Judge E. Gifford,
S. Warren, Judge Josiah Fisk,
James Graham, Hon. R. F. Joubert,
J. Stace, Hon. A. Mary,
J. Y. Sullivan, Hon. John M. Clay,
Robert Hahn, Hon. Edmund Flood,
John Ray, Hon. S. Thezan,
Mills, Lewis Lombard,
S. C. Woodruff, D. B. Mecarty,
Sebastian, M. Cornwells,
Owen Beary, Hon. David Wilson,
A. Southworth, J. H. McKee,
Ward, H. Pothier,
J. Deane, A. Lanusse,
J. B. S. Pinch, Hon. E. H. Isabelle,
Hon. A. Bertonneau,
J. Bonsaignieur, Capt. Jos. Follip,
A. J. Cromwell, Hon. David Douglass,
Jas. Isabelle, Hon. C. B. H. Dupiesis,
A. Massicot,
Simon Moses, Hon. Jno. L. Davies,
Bloomfield, Col. J. P. Becker,
J. Royal, Col. Simon Jones,
A. Young, Col. G. F. Yarrington,
E. Pardee, Col. C. Dillingham,
J. Campbell, W. R. Fish,
Henry Train,
Capt. J. A. Haynal,
Maj. J. H. Copeland,
Maj. R. E. Adams,
K. C. Billings,
Alfred Shaw,
Jacob Harsinger,
P. T. Haskell,
Louis D. Larrieu,
Capt. W. G. McConnell,
Capt. J. B. Armstrong,
Capt. H. Styles,
Capt. Alcide Lewis,
Dr. John White,
Dr. W. Pemberton,
Thos. Lemon.

And five hundred others.

The following were secretaries: F. G. Ellis, Captain L. A. Sauer, William H. Kemp, Henry R. Hubert, and A. Rongelot.

Colonel J. Hiestand, on taking the chair, delivered an appropriate address.

He had an opportunity to introduce the next speaker, the seventh, eighth, and ward clubs came in with music, banners and transparencies, among the latter on which were these: "Union and Law." "No Rebels Need Apply."

The first speaker introduced by the president was Hon. H. C. Warmoth, the Union candidate for governor, whose speech we report, as follows:

SPEECH OF JUDGE WARMOTH.

Fellow-citizens: The grand audience which I see before me to-night convinces me that the political season of this great city was not when they declared that a loyal American government should be established in this state.

Do you feel with me that our object is not to persecute nobody, punish nobody, but we want to establish a government under which all may live on terms of perfect equality before the law? This is our object and under the favor of God we will accomplish it. (Applause.) We are determined to have loyal governments, (applause) loyal measures. Loyalty will be at a premium and disloyalty at a discount, and we soon shall see all the people "accepting the situation" in good faith. (Cheers.)

Shall the new constitution be ratified? Not completed as yet know the main principles it contains. The great opposition to it will be on account of its provisions on the question of elective franchise.

Some will oppose it because it establishes universal negro suffrage; others because it disfranchises white men, and others for both reasons. It is estimated that not one thousand white men will be disfranchised under the new constitution, and the legislature is authorized to enfranchise these whenever anything give evidence of their good behavior.

The enfranchisement of the colored people is just, necessary, and expedient.

It is just, for taxation without representation is unjust, and can only be tolerated in exceptional cases where a class is represented by what right they condemn the rebellion? Shall men who for four years tried to overthrow, destroy the constitution, and save slavery, and who now claim to be part of the constitution, the laws of the land, and the rights of liberty, left we have been so suddenly convinced, they not mistaken about the government which they are so much in love? Why were the friends of the government, they send control to stand aside while these rebellious were trying to destroy our government? Why, but when they succeeded we hear, but when they failed and that they could not control it in their own peculiar interest, and interpret the constitution to suit themselves, and when liberty no longer meant slavery, they all at once determined to burst up the hated government and make a new one. Now, is well enough for our disloyal friends to remember that the government is not the one they used to love, but the one they tried to break up. It is the same government against which they fought, and the same constitution which provides the death penalty for treason. (Applause.)

Now, why this complaint and resistance of the manifest will of the nation? By what precedent do they claim the right to criticise and condemn the terms imposed by the government when they unconditionally surrendered to the power they could not which? I claim that the government might justly have executed the leaders of the rebellion; exported 25,000 others, confiscated sufficient property to have paid the national debt, and disfranchised all remaining from voting or holding any office of trust or profit.

And upon no other principle can we excuse ourselves for not having recognized the independence of the confederacy. For if their cause was just, ours was unjust. But if our cause was just, if we were right in marching armies against them and destroying their people and overrunning their country, then the government had the right to punish them, indemnify the past, and secure the future. (Applause.) Some rebel listening will dencance this sentiment. Let me ask him was it right for Beauregard to urge the passage of a law by the confederate congress for the execution of all *abolitionists?* Was it right for the confederate government to confiscate all the debts of Southern merchants to Northern creditors? Was it right to drive citizens from their homes and exile them from their states because they were loyal to the republic? Was it right to imprison citizens for their loyalty, and massacre them, as was done in Texas, because they loved their government? If these acts were right for the confederate whose cause was slavery, and whose wicked conspiracy led them to the most damnable excesses, what kind of punishment would be justifiable in an innocent and outraged government? (Applause.)

I do not refer to this course with a view to angry retaliation, or even do suggest it, but to bring to your comprehension the course which the government might justly have pursued—in order to shew its magnanimity and concession.

And now what has the government done which should not be welcomed by every rebel and applauded by every loyalist for its magnanimity?

Show me a single case where a rebel has been executed for his offense? Show me a single case of expatriation? Out of half a million traitors with all of their chieftains captured, who in addition to the crime of treason were guilty of breaking their most solemn oaths, not one has been punished capitally or by imprisonment. The government has executed none. It has exported none. It has confiscated no property since the termination of hostilities. It has permanently disfranchised none, and the few thousands who have been proscribed from holding office are promised removal of disability when they give evidence of future good behavior.

What terms could have been expected or hoped for milder than those contained in the fourteenth amendment to the constitution? It gave every rebel the right to vote. Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Beauregard are as much entitled to vote under it as Ulysses S. Grant or W. T. Sherman. It allowed rebels to disfranchise loyal black men who had fought in the army, and only prescribed as a penalty that they should not have representation in congress for those disfranchised. Is there any feature at all objectionable to them in the clause proscribing certain classes of men who had prostituted their offices and oaths to the wicked attempt to destroy the national life.

Were ever such terms proposed by the victor to the vanquished? Scan the pages of history and point to a single instance where such grand magnanimity has been displayed. Yet these terms, singular to say, were rejected, and with such accompanying legislation as aroused the people and brought the nation to its feet. The same wicked and perverse spirit which instigated and animated the rebellion rose up again under the encouragement of President Johnson, and manifested its determination to destroy the friends of the country or drive them from Southern soil. The wicked and infamous enactments in relation to laborers, which practically re-enslaved every man made free by the war; the prescription and exclusion of Union white men throughout the South, with the assassinations, murders, and massacres, encouraged and protected by the officers sworn to execute the law, exhibited the error of congress and showed the people of the country that there could be no loyal government, no protection for loyal men unless every citizen was armed with the ballot box. (Great applause.)

And when congress declared the great principle that all loyal men should have an equal voice in the government of the country it sounded the key-note of the constitution; it sang the song of Republicanism. Anything less than universal suffrage would have been a wanton and wicked betrayal of loyal thousands, and a barter of the rights of four millions of loyal people to conciliate a wicked and contemptuous foe. (Applause.)

The acts of congress on reconstruction simply embody the principles and our constitution. almost completed by the convention, will soon be submitted to us for our ratification. It will, go doubt, have defects, and we will have to wait for things to be were different; but, as a whole, I have no doubt but it will receive the general approval. Our grand object is to get our state back into its proper place in the Union. We want the light of our republic's sun. We want to feel the influence of its home rays. We want our interests considered, and aid in the work of the general welfare. In the Union, with the rights of all the people secured in the bulwarks of our constitution, with a free press and free speech, we know that any reform we may wish necessary will be easy to attain. The great, paramount object now to be attained is the establishment of equal suffrage, and the breaking down of the barriers to equal civil and political rights. All other questions are subordinate to this. (Applause.) With equal suffrage we will have no payment of the rebel debt; no repudiation of the national obligations; no renewal of hostilities against the nation by state authority; no re-enslavement "of any class of people; no proscription of any class of citizens; no rebel terror; but instead we will have loyal governments, (applause) loyal measures. Loyalty will be at a premium and disloyalty at a discount, and we soon shall see all the people "accepting the situation" in good faith. (Cheers.)

The fourteenth amendment is the platform on which the reconstruction committee of congress stood when they declared that a loyal state government should be established in this state.

Do you feel with me that our object is not to persecute nobody, punish nobody? We want no revenge, we want to establish a government under which all may live on terms of perfect equality before the law. This is our object and under the favor of God we will accomplish it. (Applause.) We are determined to have loyal governments, (applause) loyal measures. Loyalty will be at a premium and disloyalty at a discount, and we soon shall see all the people "accepting the situation" in good faith. (Cheers.)

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